

PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FILM "FRAGILE RING OF LIFE"

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar order No. 464, H.R. 2070.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2070) to provide for the distribution within the United States of the United States Information Agency film entitled "Fragile Ring of Life."

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2070) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Order No. 465, House Concurrent Resolution 160.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 160) congratulating the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the success of their recent democratic multiparty elections.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be considered and agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 160) was agreed to.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ISLAND ACT OF 1995

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Order No. 469, H.R. 1508.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1508) to require the transfer of title to the District of Columbia of certain real property in Anacostia Park to facilitate the construction of National Children's Is-

land, a cultural, educational, and family-oriented park.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, there are several letters that I would like to submit for the RECORD as the Senate considers H.R. 1508, the National Children's Island Act. The letters are addressed to me as chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee and express support of both former and current elected officials in the District of Columbia for this bill.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the following letters:

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 1996.

Sen. TED STEVENS,
Senate Hart Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN STEVENS: The National Children's Island Act of 1995, passed the House on October 30, 1995 by a unanimous voice vote, and I understand that the bill will come before your Senate Government Affairs Committee tomorrow. I urge passage of the bill, which was overwhelmingly passed by the D.C. City Council and has the support of the city administration.

H.R. 1508 calls for the transfer of ownership of Heritage and portions of Kingman Island, located within the Anacostia River, from the National Park Service to the District of Columbia for the purposes of creating a cultural, educational and family oriented-park.

The National Children's Island project will transform a wasteland area into an educational park featuring pavilions designed to expand awareness in such areas as communications and computers, medicine, science and the environment. It will offer area youth a badly needed recreational facility. Furthermore, a share of the park's revenues have been earmarked to provide educational opportunities through grants and scholarships for our neighborhood children.

When the House of Representatives first considered this legislation, I met on several occasions with residents who were supporters and opponents of the bill, and all have contributed to its final version. Over the course of several months and countless meetings, several valid concerns were raised and addressed in the Chairman's Mark at my request:

A provision specifying that the District of Columbia's review of the project must be in full compliance with all provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

A requirement that the National Capital Planning Commission review and approve the project;

A prohibition against public parking on the Islands;

A provision requiring National Children's Island to comply with previously agreed upon design parameters. Specifically, buildings cannot exceed fifty feet in height, and no more than five acres can be under roof and no more than 23% of the surface can be paved; and

A requirement that National Children's Island establish an escrow fund to restore the lands in the event they are returned to the National Park Service. Specifically, they must remove any buildings and landscape the area.

National Children's Island will offer the District of Columbia significant economic opportunities at a time when, as you know, the city is in dire financial condition. For example, over 1,700 new, full and part-time jobs and an estimated \$8.9 million in annual sales tax revenues will result. In light of the District's current state of financial crisis, the City Council and he city administrators have strongly supported the project, and I believe that on a home rule basis, it should proceed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

WALTER E. WASHINGTON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Washington, DC, May 30, 1996.

Hon. TED STEVENS,

Chairman, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STEVENS: During my term as the first elected mayor of the District of Columbia, it was my pleasure to organize the City's Bicentennial Commission to help the United States' 200th birthdate during that year-long national celebration. One of the projects that the citizens on that commission strongly recommended was the National Children's Island project, prior to the citizens of the District supporting this project, the National Park Service had been trying to develop these islands as a part of its overall plan for the development of the Anacostia River basin for ten years.

When I heard that your committee was about to take up H.R. 1508, the National Children's Island Act of 1995, I was overjoyed as it has been a long hard struggle for a very worthy project to take so long to become a reality. I want to convey my strongest support for H.R. 1508, and urge your committee to move this legislation through the Senate as early as is practical.

As an elected official, you must know how frustrating it can be to devote your time and energy to worthwhile projects that never see the light of day. I held a ground breaking ceremony and started initial construction and sought major financing for this project in 1976 and since that time the project has for the most part been tied up in red tape. I would very much like to be able to attend the opening of the project, which I am assured, only needs this legislation to speed into the planning, design and construction process. This can only happen with your help.

This project means a great deal to our citizens, as well as to the District's economic base. Please help us get rid of a dump site and help us create an environmentally safe, attractive, fun-filled learning place for our children and their families.

Sincerely,

WALTER E. WASHINGTON.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, June 18, 1996.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STEVENS: I am writing to emphasize the District of Columbia's support for H.R. 1508, the National Children's Island Act of 1995.

I strongly urge passage of this legislation exactly as it is written. The current language of the bill is a result of months and even years of discussion, compromise and fine-tuning, with input from various sectors: the National Park Service, the National Capital Planning Commission, environmentalists, community advocates, the District government and residents of the neighborhoods bordering the Children's Island project. All of these entities have had an opportunity to